

Public Toilet Redesign

Mr WONG Cheuk Yin, BA (Hons) in Product Design, Faculty of Design and Environment

Supervisor: Mr LEE Kwok Lang, Assistant Professor

Background

Public toilets are basic facilities in cities for fulfilling citizens' biological needs anytime for everyone. They are essential in the countryside where no toilets are open to the public. However, Hong Kong public toilets are famed for their dirtiness. Many citizens refrain from using public toilets.



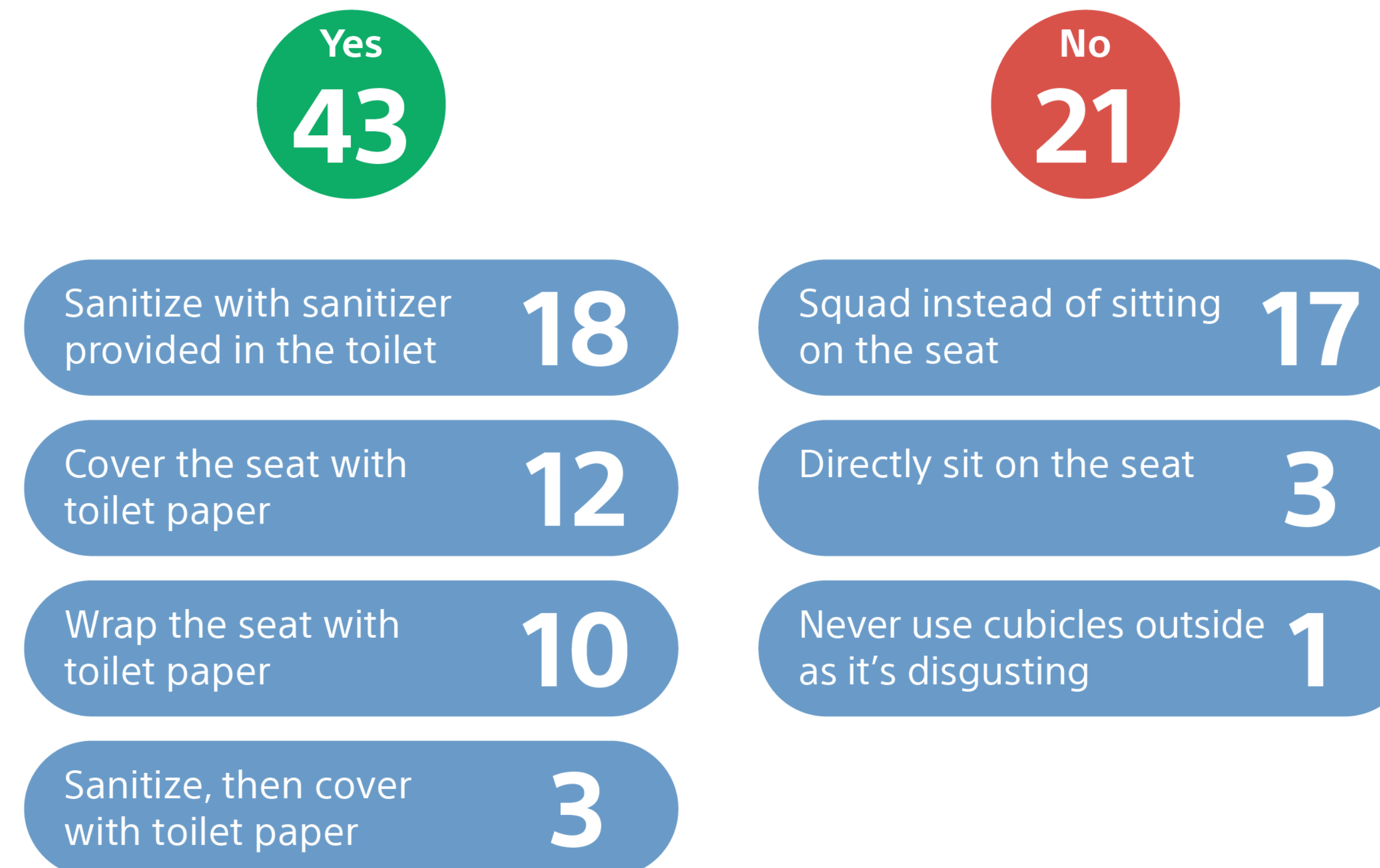
Research Objectives

The objective of the project is to improve the hygienic condition of public toilets by redesigning the toilet seat and cubicle. In the new toilet design, solutions for public toilet hygiene are introduced, so that the toilet cubicles and toilet seats can be kept clean without janitors' assistance.

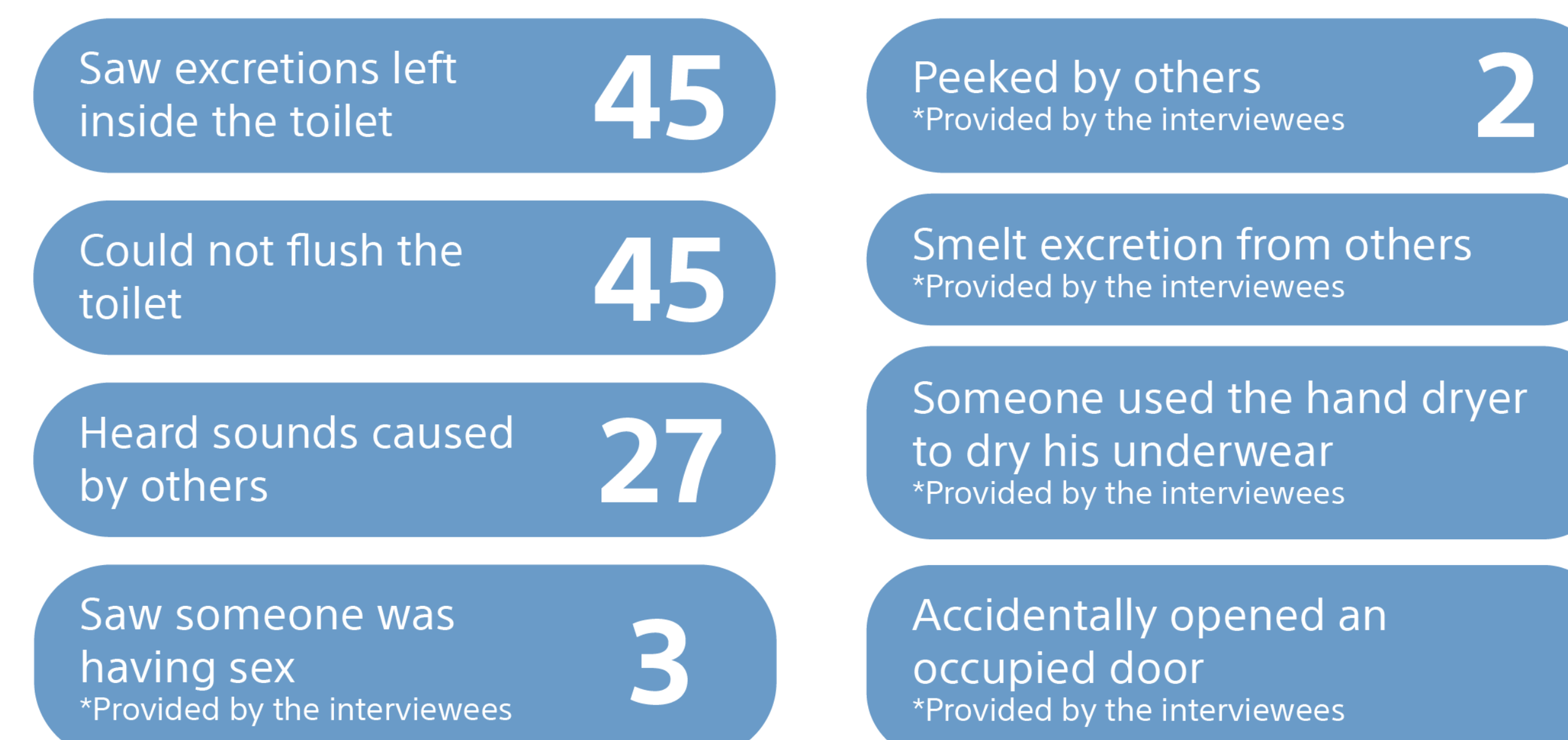
Methodology

To discover how dirty the public toilets are, 40 public toilets in Hong Kong, located in 18 districts, were visited. In addition, a survey with 64 respondents were conducted, inquiring about their attitudes toward using public toilets, and their dissatisfaction with public toilets.

Will you clean the seat before sitting on it, and how ?



Mention some of the embarrassing experience you have encountered when using the public toilet.



Findings

From the survey, the hygienic problems that respondents were dissatisfied with were slippery floors, wet seats and nasty odor, which were common problems in the visited public toilets. Therefore, automatic solutions will be introduced to my design. A wind blower will be installed inside the cubicle, and the toilet seats can be self-cleaned. A ventilation fan would also be installed in the bowl.

